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FIFTEEN  
MINUTES  
A DAY





7

THE best heads the  
world ever knew were  
well read and the best  
heads take the best places.

—*Emerson*







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# THE HARVARD CLASSICS

"DR. ELIOT'S FIVE-FOOT SHELF OF BOOKS"



EDITED BY  
CHARLES W. ELIOT

P. F. COLLIER & SON  
416 WEST 13TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
SOLE PUBLISHERS

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## Foreword

**I**N the matter of making a life as well as a living, we are told that good books cut a paramount figure.

In *The Harvard Classics* we have at our beck and call a great company of the wisest, the wittiest, and most interesting minds of all ages and every land, among whom is to be found entertainment in endless variety:

And not entertainment only; for entertainment is not the end of life, but its sweetener and strengthener toward whatever may be the high goal which we have made and are making our chief concern.

Pleasure, therefore, and self-satisfaction—and with both, the delight and advantage of mental growth—lie for those who want them in *The Harvard Classics*.



## What Shall I Read To-Night?

**S**O MANY millions of books have been written and so few of them are really worth while. In the Five-Foot Shelf of Books you have the 418 works that have stood the acid test of time. The men whose wisdom and poise other men envy have read and reread these few great works.

# The Art of Reading

HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE

**E**VERY intelligent traveler who travels with a purpose outlines his route, selects the places of interest which he desires to visit, and carefully apportions his time. If one is to traverse a certain area of territory in a given period his movements must be guarded by forethought and method.

Reading is mental traveling through regions far more various and attractive than any which the longest routes of terrestrial journeyings afford. The tourist annihilates space, the reader destroys both space and time. The world of thought and action is spread out before him, and his greatest difficulty is apt to be that he does not know how to traverse it. He wastes his time in short and unprofitable excursions when he might be taking account of the Antipodes.

Many people expend in desultory reading time and effort that, wisely directed, would make them masters of epochs and literatures. The art of reading is to read in such a way that with the utmost economy of time one can secure the richest results. Reading habits are generally formed, as are other habits, unconsciously. One who is just beginning to read, or one who has already read much, can form good reading habits and so acquire the art of reading as easily as any other habits can be formed, and no easier. Attention to a few rules for a reasonable time will result in the unconscious adoption of the rules by the mind which makes them habits and relieves one from any further conscious effort.

## *The Art of Reading*

We cannot all be scholars, because scholarship demands uninterrupted hours and a continuous and absorbing attention, which in most cases the demands of active life make impossible; but anyone who has access to books may become educated in a very liberal sense and without infringing on daily duties if he only knows how to set about it. An element of the first importance is time. Many busy people declare that they have no time for reading; but they are mistaken. They have all the time there is, and some of the world's busiest men have found that time enough to make themselves accomplished in one or more departments of knowledge. The trouble is not lack of time, but wasteful habits in regard to it. Many persons entertain the notion that one must have regular and definite hours of the day or week set apart for reading in order to accomplish anything valuable. There never was a greater mistake. The busiest life has margins of time which may serve, like the borders of the old missals, to enrich and exalt the commonplaces written between. Fifteen minutes in the morning and as many in the evening devoted faithfully to reading will add appreciably in the course of a few months to one's store of knowledge. Always have a book at hand, and, whether the opportunity brings you two hours or ten minutes, use it to the full. An English scientist learned a language in the time his wife kept him waiting for the completion of her evening toilettes; and at the dinner given to Mr. Froude in this city some years ago Mr. Beecher said that he had read through that author's brilliant but somewhat lengthy history in the intervals of dinner. Every life has pauses between its activities. The time spent in local travel in street cars and ferries is a golden opportunity if one will only resolutely make the most of it. It is not long spaces of time, but the single purpose that turns every moment to account that makes great

## *The Art of Reading*

and faithful acquisitions possible to men and women who have other work in life.

In order to have a book always at hand, one must decide in advance what he is going to read next. For lack of this kind of forethought many readers waste time enough to make themselves good literary scholars. They are never quite decided what to get, and generally end with the first volume that comes to hand, which is likely to be something of only passing interest, if not entirely worthless.

To sit in a railway car, and by opening the pages of a book to transport oneself in a second into the age of Pericles or the gardens of the Medici at Florence, is the modern version of Aladdin's lamp and makes one master of treasures more rare and lustrous than those which adorned the palaces of Bagdad.



### Which Will Succeed?

Each has only a few minutes a day to give to reading. One occupies *all* his few moments with the daily paper; the other is mastering a little at a time the few great books of the ages, a knowledge of which is one of the essentials of true success.





## Emerson's Wish—

"In a library we are surrounded by many hundreds of dear friends, but they are imprisoned in these paper and leather boxes, and as they are dressed, like battalions of infantry, in coat and jacket of one cut, by the thousands and ten thousands, your chance of hitting on the right one is to be computed by the arithmetical rule of permutation and combination—not a choice out of three caskets, but out of half a million caskets, all alike.

"Would that some charitable soul, after losing a great deal of time among the false books and alighting upon a few true ones, which made him happy and wise, would name those which have been bridges or ships to carry him safely over dark morasses and barren oceans, into the heart of sacred cities, into palaces and temples."

## And Its Fulfillment

From his lifetime of reading, study, and teaching—forty years of which were spent as President of Harvard University—Dr. Charles W. Eliot has chosen a Five-Foot Shelf containing just the books essential to the Twentieth Century cultivated man.

"I believe that the faithful and considerate reading of these books will give any man the essentials of a liberal education."—*Eliot.*

# The Conception of The Harvard Classics

**T**HE eternal question of what constitutes the best reading—what are the all-round “best” books—is one that has ever been widely discussed. Eliminating entirely all gatherings of literary fragments, there had never been a systematic attempt to collate a well-rounded library of liberal education until Charles W. Eliot aroused the interest of the American public by announcing that he had undertaken to select a “Five-Foot Shelf of Books.” There was hardly a newspaper in the country that did not welcome the news of Dr. Eliot’s intention. The New York “Times” voiced public opinion in announcing editorially:

“It is safe to say that the entire educational world, and a very considerable proportion of the reading public besides, will await with deep interest the selection of the volumes which go toward making what—for lack of a better name—may be termed “The President Eliot Library of Liberal Education.”

## Books Enough to Give a Liberal Education

The actual conception of the idea and its after development are best summed up in Dr. Eliot’s own words:

Some years ago in a speech before an educational gathering I chanced to say that a three-foot shelf would hold good books enough to give a liberal education to anyone who would read them with devotion, even if he could give but fifteen minutes a day to the task. This remark brought me a considerable number of letters, demanding a list of those books. I made several efforts to make the list, but soon discovered that it was a serious undertaking, and that I had no time for it. Subsequently I saw reason to lengthen the shelf to five feet, but made very little progress toward a definite selection.

## *The Conception of The Harvard Classics*

Early in January last I received a proposal from the firm of P. F. Collier & Son that I undertake to make a selection of fifty volumes, of from four hundred to four hundred and fifty pages each, which would fill my five-foot shelf and be well adapted to accomplish the educational object I had in mind.

### **Official Approval of Harvard University**

I was invited to assume the entire responsibility of the selection as regards both inclusion and exclusion, and I was to be provided with a competent assistant of my own choice. It was further proposed that the set should be called *The Harvard Library* or *The Harvard Classics*. In view of this proposed name for the set, and of the fact that I had been President of Harvard University for nearly forty years, I asked the President and Fellows of Harvard College if they saw any objection, from the point of view of the University, to my accepting the proposal of P. F. Collier & Son. The Board replied unanimously that they saw no objection and that, in their judgment, the undertaking, if well carried out, would prove a useful one from the educational point of view.

### **A Picture of the Progress of the Human Race**

Never before had a task of this magnitude been undertaken by an educator of the standing of Dr. Eliot. Never before had a question of such unusual public importance received the time and attention that has been applied to the selection of the contents of *The Harvard Classics*.

The sentiment which guided Dr. Eliot in his work is one which every reader might as well take as his guide:

“My aim was not to select the best fifty, or best hundred books in the world, but to give in twenty-one thousand pages or thereabouts a picture of the progress of the human race within historical times, so far as that progress can be depicted through books.”

### **The Stream of the World's Thought**

The work of selection alone required nearly twelve months. The question of the exclusion or inclusion of every item was most carefully considered from every possible point of view; so that the reader may be sure that every-

## *The Conception of The Harvard Classics*

thing he reads in his five-foot shelf is included for some specific reason. Furthermore, it makes a literary *whole*, the component parts of which bear some relation to one another. This means that, having read such a well-rounded-out selection, the reader has gained a comprehensive knowledge "of the stream of the world's thought," rather than the confused and contradictory ideas often received from indiscriminate reading.

### **MEDAL IS PRESENTED TO DR. C. W. ELIOT**

The first gold medal to be awarded by the American Academy of Fine Arts and Letters for distinction in literature, art and music, has been presented to Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University, at a meeting of the academy held in the Chemists' Club, No. 52 East Forty-first street.

The medal, which was voted to Dr. Eliot last November and which was designed by James Earl Fraser, was presented by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, who presided.

In accepting the medal Dr. Eliot said:—"It became possible for me as president of Harvard to promote the progress of American letters and American arts, and this has been one of the principal objects of my life. To-day's event is one of the greatest sources of delight that can come to an old man. I want to thank the academy deeply for having honored me."





Illustration from the Folklore and Fable volume of *The Harvard Classics*

"It is," says Dr. Eliot of Harvard, "precisely this encounter with the mental states of other generations which enlarges the outlook and sympathies of the cultivated man and persuades him of the upward tendency of the human race."

# Dr. Eliot Tells Why He Undertook the Work

I HAVE undertaken to select from the best literature of the world a Five-Foot Shelf of Books, to be published by P. F. Collier & Son, under the title of "The Harvard Classics." The selection is intended exclusively for English-speaking people.

It is my belief that the faithful and considerate reading of these books, with such rereadings and memorizings as individual taste may prescribe, will give any man the essentials of a liberal education, even if he can devote to them but fifteen minutes a day.

## Harvard University Sanctions Title

It was further proposed that the set be called The Harvard Library or The Harvard Classics. In view of this proposed name for the set, and of the fact that I had been president of Harvard University for nearly forty years, I asked the president and fellows of Harvard College if they saw any objection, from the point of view of the university, to my accepting the proposal of P. F. Collier & Son. The board replied unanimously that they saw no objection, and that, in their judgment, the undertaking, if well carried out, would prove a useful one from the educational point of view.

## Dr. Eliot's Aim

My aim was not to select the best fifty, or best hundred, books in the world, but to give, in twenty-one thousand

## *Dr. Eliot tells why he undertook the work*



—Just  
Fifteen

### Minutes at Bedtime

In only those few minutes a day it is possible for you to get the knowledge of literature, the broad culture, that every University strives to give. This is no idle promise: "I believe that the faithful and considerate reading of *The Harvard Classics* will give any man the essentials of a liberal education, even if he can devote to them but fifteen minutes a day"—says Dr. Eliot.

pages or thereabouts, a picture of the progress of the human race within historical times, so far as that progress can be depicted in books.

### Liberal Education Defined

Liberal education accomplishes two objects. It produces a liberal frame of mind, and it makes the studious and reflective recipient acquainted with the stream of the world's thought and feeling, and with the infinitely varied products of the human imagination. It

was my hope and belief that fifty volumes might accomplish this result for any intelligent, ambitious, and persistent reader, whether his early opportunities for education had been large or small. Such was the educational purpose with which I undertook to edit *The Harvard Classics*, and I believe that a similar educational purpose actuated the publishers.

### Useful Extension of His Educational Work

I regard the undertaking as a useful extension of my educational work, and I cherish the hope that, when the work is finished, the educated public will so regard it.

If our work proves to have been well done, the use of the title "*The Harvard Classics*" will be justified.

### Twentieth-Century Idea of a Cultivated Man

Within the limits of fifty volumes, containing about 22,000 pages, I was to provide the means of obtaining



## *Dr. Eliot tells why he undertook the work*

such a knowledge of ancient and modern literature as seems essential to the twentieth-century idea of a cultivated man. The best acquisition of a cultivated man is a liberal frame of mind or way of thinking; but there must be added to that possession acquaintance with the prodigious store of recorded discoveries, experiences, and reflections which humanity in its intermittent and irregular progress from barbarism to civilization has acquired and laid up.

### **A Cultivated Man Enlarges His Outlook and Sympathies**

The sentiments and opinions these authors express are frequently not acceptable to present-day readers, who have to be often saying to themselves: "This is not true, or not correct, or not in accordance with our beliefs." It is, however, precisely this encounter with the mental states of other generations which enlarges the outlook and sympathies of the cultivated man, and persuades him of the upward tendency of the human race.

#### **Poetry from Homer to Tennyson**

The poetry contained in The Harvard Classics, from Homer to Tennyson, will by itself give any appreciative reader a vivid conception of the permanent, elemental sentiments and passions of mankind, and of the gradually developed ethical means of



—A man  
would

die in the first alcove:

Emerson said: "There are 850,000 volumes in the Imperial Library at Paris. If a man were to read in dustriously from dawn to dark for sixty years, he would die in the first alcove."

The foolish man wastes all his few hours with the merely ephemeral books which the solid judgment of men has already rejected. The wise man welcomes the opportunity to be guided by Dr. Eliot on books, as he would welcome the advice of any great authority and specialist on law, or medicine, or finance.

### *Dr. Eliot tells why he undertook the work*

purifying those sentiments and controlling those passions.

#### **“High Thoughts and Beautiful Imagery”**

In order to make the best use of The Harvard Classics it will be desirable for the younger reader to reread those volumes or passages which he finds most interesting, and to commit to memory many of the pieces of poetry which stir or uplift him. It is a source of exquisite and enduring delight to have one's mind stored with many melodious expressions of high thoughts and beautiful imagery.

#### **Chief End in View**

The main function of the collection should be to develop and foster in many thousands of people a taste for serious reading of the highest quality, outside of The Harvard Classics as well as within them.

#### **Cooperation of Harvard University**

It would have been impossible to perform the task satisfactorily if the treasures of the general library and of the department libraries of Harvard University had not been at our disposal. The range of the topics in the series was so wide, and the number of languages in which the desired books were originally written so great, that the advice of specialists, each in some portion of the field, had frequently to be sought. We obtained much valuable advice of this sort from scholarly friends and neighbors.

*Charles W. Eliot*



### The Apotheosis of Homer

If you are tired of the world of to-day, take down this volume from the Five-Foot Shelf and "hear like thunder on a western beach the surge and thunder of the 'Odyssey.'"

The "Odyssey" is a masterpiece of rapid narrative. The buoyant, flowing verse carries the reader forward with a glorious energy.

# PITY

"The *Titanic* had gone down," said the chief editorial writer of a great Chicago daily, "and I was sitting at my desk wondering what I should write that would drive the awful meaning of that disaster home to the hearts of my readers.

"Mechanically I reached out for the dictionary and running my eyes over its pages, stopped at the word 'pity'. There was a definition, to be sure, but only a bloodless one. No thrill of feeling warmed me as I read it; it was chilled, cold-cut, scientific. I tossed the book aside and turned to the encyclopedia. There was 'pity' again, but it was only the 'pity' of the dictionary, amplified, but still uninspired.

"As a last resort I reached to the shelf above my desk and took down volume fifty of The Harvard Classics and looked for 'pity' there and found it to my eager surprise. Here was Bacon's word on 'pity'; and Blake's; and here was what Burke had said; and Hobbes and Pascal. One by one I ran the references down in the other volumes, reading no merely fragmentary quotations but the real throbbing thought of the great men of all times in its original context, the source and meaning and nature of 'pity', and when I had finished I knew what I was going to say. I sat down then and wrote the greatest editorial of my career."



*"The smooth, well-read man whose superiority of mind enables him to mold to his purpose the men around him."*

## Reading and Business

**I**N the hurly-burly of modern life there is little time for reading and that little dissipates itself more often than not in a desultory haphazard dipping here and there into the uncharted sea of books.

A lack of guidance rather than a lack of desire has kept many from the treasures that are to be found between the covers of the right books.

Another thing. Ours has been and is yet to some extent a new country. Its opportunities have been so many that ability in the rough was sufficient to make good. The need of the keener perceptions, the wider initiative that good books yield had not yet been felt. Men who had hardly glimpsed between the covers of a book in their whole lives became captains of industry.

But the day of untutored success in business is passing. The unlettered man is having less and less chance for the best places. The rough diamond who molded raw new-country conditions with inborn shrewdness is giving way to the





FRANCIS 1ST VISITING THE STUDIO OF BENVENUTO CELLINI

*From the painting by Pierre-Charles Compté*

## *Reading and Business*

smooth, well-read man whose superiority of mind enables him to mold to his purpose the men around him.

In this matter of the reading that is already helping forward those whose foresight bade them start it before now—competent counsel takes the first place in importance if we are to avoid waste of time and money.

When we want legal advice, we consult the best lawyer; if we have a bad appendix to be cut out, we spare no trouble in searching out the best surgeon that can be found to do the carving; similarly when we want to know how we may best equip the mind on which we completely depend for success and a livelihood, do we not want the best advice and the services of the most eminent counsel available?

The answer, of course, is that we do.

The tests by which an eminent lawyer or a great surgeon is known are familiar. There are almost countless examples of both. But can you name offhand even five men whose word on books and reading might be accepted by the nation?

Perhaps there are not even five.

Yet there is one man whose training, experience, and position have fitted him beyond all others to direct the reading of those ambitious people who see the splendid opportunity for mental expansion afforded by his guidance. Dr. Eliot of Harvard is the man.

But let us not wander from the point of what this organized reading is to do for us, this reading that will help toward the broadness of vision, the fertility of resource demanded by latter-day business.

Dr. Eliot supplies perhaps the best definition when he asserts his belief that the faithful and considerate reading of the books he has selected will give any man "the essentials of a liberal education, even if he can devote to them but fifteen minutes a day."



## Reading and Business

"Liberal education accomplishes two objects," he goes on to say. "It produces a liberal frame of mind and it makes the studious and reflective recipient acquainted with the stream of the world's thought and feeling, and with the infinitely varied products of the human imagination."

Take Cellini's Autobiography as an illustration:

Cellini exceeds in vividness and picturesqueness even the riotous time in which he lived. His almost unbelievable dealings with kings and princes, his love affairs, his street fights with his rivals—of all these he tells with a frankness that takes your breath away. And back of it all you see the glitter and glare, the licentiousness and violence of the Middle Ages.

"It is," says Dr. Eliot, "precisely this encounter with the mental states of other generations which enlarges the outlook and sympathies of the cultivated man and persuades him of the upward tendency of the human race."

We owe a great deal to Dr. Eliot, we busy people, for giving us in this WASTELESS library the benefit of his seventy years of reading—for making it possible for us, without reading much, to be still well read.

Cellini's Autobiography is only *one* of the four hundred and eighteen titles in The Harvard Classics, Dr. Eliot's Five-Foot Shelf of Books.

Thus to take out of each age the Histories, or Essays, or Plays, or Biographies, or Poems, or Books of Science, Philosophy, Education, Travel or Religion that record like photographs the spirit and life of that age—to unite these great and ever-living books in

## Reading and Business

such a way that they tell the story of human progress from the beginning—that, to put it all in a nutshell, is what Dr. Eliot has done in *The Harvard Classics*.

No one so surely stands as the first representative of scholarly intelligence in America as he who has been for forty years president of Harvard University. Through his effort has now been given to the world in this Five-Foot Shelf of Books the crystallization of his lifetime of leadership in education.

The Harvard Classics may be and probably are just the books you have wished for.

Certainly they represent a wealth of opportunity for those who look into the future and as far as possible predetermine success by preparing adequately for it.

Master of human destinies am I! (sings Ingalls of *opportunity*)

Fame, love, and fortune on my footsteps wait.

*I knock unbidden once at every gate!*

If sleeping, wake—if feasting, rise before

I turn away. It is the hour of fate,

*And they who follow me reach  
every state*

Mortals desire, and conquer  
every foe

Save death; *but those who doubt  
or hesitate,*

Condemned to failure, penury,  
and woe,

Seek me in vain and uselessly  
implore,

*I answer not, and I return no  
more!*

None of us is willing to pass up even a possibility of opportunity, but on the other hand none of us has time to waste in fruitless chasing of will-o'-the-wisps.

It's a big economizer of money and space—this Five-Foot Shelf. Every great thinker has in one or two characteristic works covered his main idea—given us in his basic thought. Here you get these really great thoughts of the world's masters; here you can turn to the best writings of any one of them without having to burden your shelves with the complete works of all.

## *Reading and Business*

All is not gold that glitters, and everything so called is not merely for that reason an opportunity.

To judge with safety—in other words, not to let pass the opportunity, yet not to be misled by an unessential—requires merely a careful weighing of the facts.

If you should find in *The Harvard Classics* a wealth of opportunity, it would surely more than justify this particular “knock unbidden at your gate.”

# The Contents of The Harvard Classics

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*Already a hundred thousand busy people  
are finding the joy of mental relaxation  
and stimulus in a few pleasant moments  
a day spent with these worth-while books*

---

History

Biography *and* Letters

Government *and* Politics

Science

Education

Drama

Essays

Philosophy *and* Religion

Prose Fiction

Voyages *and* Travel

Famous Prefaces

Poetry



THE CHARGE OF THE FRENCH KNIGHTS AGAINST THE ENGLISH BOWMEN AT THE BATTLE OF CRECY

*From the painting by R. Caton Woodville*

*Illustrating the Froissart volume of The Harvard Classics*

# History

**H**ISTORY alone, of all modes of thought, places the reader above his author. While the historian more or less diligently plods along his own narrow path, perhaps the one-millionth part of all history, every avenue opens wide to the imagination of those who read him. To them history may mean anything that concerns man and that has a past; not politics only, but art and science and music have had their birth and growth; not institutions only, but legends and chronicles and all the masterpieces of literature reflect the clash of nations and the tragedies of great men. And it is just because the reader is merely a reader that the full joy of history is open to him. He wears no fetters, so that even were he bent on mastering the constitutional documents of the United States he could turn aside with a calm conscience to listen to the echoes of dying Roland's horn in the gorge of Roncesvaux or to stand by Cnut watching the North Sea tide as it lapped the old Dane's feet.

Modern readers demand not merely a record of "the dates of wars and deaths of kings," but an intimate picture of the life of our ancestors. Such portraiture is best obtained from contemporary sources—from letter writers like Pliny, biographers like Plutarch, and chroniclers like Froissart and Holinshed.

## In The Harvard Classics:

Saint Augustine  
Plutarch  
Marcus Aurelius

Rousseau  
John Stuart Mill  
Benjamin Franklin

Francis Bacon  
Adam Smith  
Herodotus





A FEW minutes a day of pleasurable reading — a book for each evening corresponding to your mood—and at the end of the year you will have a wider appreciation of literature, and art, and poetry, and science, and philosophy, and discovery, than you could possibly obtain in a lifetime of ordinary haphazard reading.

Neither time nor money is the proper word with which to picture The Harvard Classics. The real words are pleasure, self-satisfaction, the delight of mental growth.

The owner of the Five-Foot Shelf has at his beck and call a great company of the wisest, the wittiest and the most interesting minds of all ages and every land, among whom is to be found entertainment in endless variety.

And not entertainment only; for entertainment is not the end of life, but its sweetener and strengthener.

To develop our talents for good, to build up character, to fit ourselves, like the eutwater of a ship, to cleave whatever seas of experience Fate may steer us into, to set ourselves a high, far goal and always consciously, through storm or shine, to seek that goal, is the real concern of life.

On this quest The Harvard Classics show the way by example.

For inspiration, for entertainment, or perhaps on the other hand in moments of tedium or depression, these books come to our rescue. They are a constant source of enjoyment, and enduring delight.





Only 20 of the  
50 volumes  
shown here

Thus to take out of each age the Histories, or Essays, or Plays, or Biographies, or Poems, or Books of Science, Philosophy, Education, Travel, or Religion that record like photographs the spirit and life of that age—to unite these great and ever-living books in such a way that they tell the story of human progress from the beginning—that, to put

it all in a nutshell, is what Dr. Eliot has done in The Harvard Classics.

“I believe,” says Dr. Eliot, “that the faithful and considerate reading of these books will give any man the essentials of a liberal education, even if he can devote to them but fifteen minutes a day.”

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*Pleasure, self-satisfaction, entertainment, and at the same time the delight of mental growth—these are the ideas behind THE HARVARD CLASSICS.*

*In all the world there is no other such grouping of the few imperishable writings which picture the progress of civilization.*

---

## History

### In The Harvard Classics—Continued

Cicero	John Woolman	Tacitus
Pliny the Younger	Edmund Burke	Plutarch
Izaak Walton	Benvenuto Cellini	Froissart
Samuel Johnson	Thomas Carlyle	Holinshed
Machiavelli	Stevenson	Sir Walter Raleigh
Sir Thomas More	Jas. Russell Lowell	Voltaire
John Milton	Daniel Defoe	John Knox
	E. A. Freeman	

History and its allied subjects are also covered in The Harvard Classics from the critical and interpretative point of view, and through the more famous biographies. Through Plutarch's "Lives," Walton's "Lives" of Donne and Herbert, the autobiographies of Franklin, Mill, and Benvenuto Cellini, John Woolman's "Journal," the letters of Pliny and Cicero we gather that intimate, close, personal touch with mankind that cannot be acquired from a history that simply record facts.

Are you interested in American history? You know, of course, that Christopher Columbus and his men were not the first Europeans to land on the shores of America. You have heard more or less vaguely about the hardy Norsemen who ventured across the stormy north Atlantic in craft no bigger than a modern lifeboat centuries before Columbus's voyages. But have you *read the actual story* of these voyages in the quaint words of the ancient "Saga of Eric the Red." Do you know how the adventurous Biarni, blown out of his course while sailing from Iceland to Greenland, caught the first glimpse of the mainland of America but did not land, and how Lief, the son of Eric, stirred by Biarni's tales, first sailed forth and set foot on the New World's shores? As fascinating as any fiction are these stories of the early Norse voyages and settlements, and their fights with the "Skrellings," as they called the

## *History*

Indians. There is a real human-interest story in the tale of Snorri, the first white child born in America, and how the shadow of an Indian squaw falling across his cradle gave the first warning of an attempted massacre.

Here is a vivid little word picture of how Thorfinn Karlsefni and his men spent a winter in the New World, and how the Indians, for the first time perhaps, got the short end of their dealings with the white men:

"The Skrellings put down their bundles and loosed them, and offered their wares for barter, and were especially anxious to exchange these for weapons; but Karlsefni forbade his men to sell their weapons, and, taking counsel with himself, he bade the women carry out milk to the Skrellings, which they no sooner saw than they wanted to buy it, and nothing else. Now the outcome of the Skrellings' trading was that they carried their wares away in their stomachs, while they left their packs and peltries behind with Karlsefni and his companions."

The ancient chronicler was evidently not altogether without a sense of humor.

THE HARVARD CLASSICS free a man from the limitations of his age, his country, his personal experience; they give him access to all ages, to all countries, to all experience. They make him a citizen of the world; they offer him the companionship of the most interesting and influential men and women who have lived; they make it possible for him to travel without leaving home, and to have vacations without taking time from his shop, his store, or his office. They offer him friends, travel, the knowledge of life, education, the means of making a life.

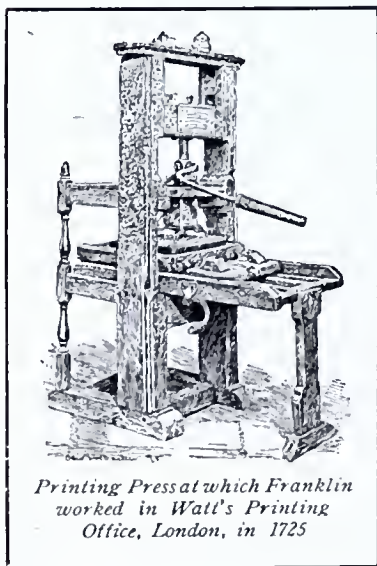
## Biography and Letters

OUR modern love of realism is indisputable. We want facts, actualities, human documents. To read the letters of Pliny or Cicero is to know the daily life and thoughts of a Roman gentleman two thousand years ago. In the autobiographies of Franklin and Cellini, and in the "Lives" of Plutarch, Walton, or Johnson, we may walk side by side with worthies of other ages in stimulating and charming friendship.

Saint Augustine  
Plutarch  
Marcus Aurelius  
Pliny the Younger  
Cicero

Izaak Walton  
Samuel Johnson  
John Stuart Mill  
John Woolman  
Edmund Burke

Benjamin Franklin  
Thomas Carlyle  
R. L. Stevenson  
Benvenuto Cellini



*Printing Press at which Franklin  
worked in Watt's Printing  
Office, London, in 1725*

### Books that Have Influenced All Literature

From the period of the revival of classical literature in Europe down to now, Plutarch's writings have done more than those of any other single author to familiarize us with the greatest men and the greatest events of the ancient world. His "Lives" have been called "the food of great souls," because of the enormous influence which, through Montaigne and

## *Biography and Letters*

Shakespeare, they have exercised on modern literature. They belong to the small category of the world's books which are read by all educated men, not merely consulted by scholars.

### **A Wonderful Book**

At the age of fifty-eight Benvenuto Cellini, goldsmith, sculptor, designer, enameler, and a man of violence and pleasure, shaved his head and retired to a monastery to write his autobiography. Two years later, the work completed, and himself tired of the change of life, he emerged once more and plunged into his old rioting.

He mirrors forth the fiery passions of the time with amazing candor and verisimilitude. The period is the Renaissance, and he expresses himself strongly on the social, political, and church motives which actuated the parties among which he associated. He wielded his pen as his chisel.

The whole book is a vivid picture of Italy of the Renaissance, and is as much a work of art as his statues of the Nymph or Perseus, or the wonderful specimens of his art as a goldsmith.

### **An Inexhaustible Treasure House**

The letters of Cicero and Pliny are intimate pictures of Roman society written by prominent statesmen to their friends. We derive from Pliny not a few of our distinctest impressions of the public and private life of the upper class in the first century.

These fragmentary descriptions serve to afford merely the slightest glimmerings of what The Harvard Classics really contain.

The field they cover is so vast that nothing short of actual examination of the volumes themselves can give a true conception of the glorious possibilities they unfold to our view.





SIGNING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
*From the painting by Charles E. A. Dumaresq*



# Government and Politics

**I**N a nation based on free institutions, that stakes its present prosperity and future happiness on a belief in democracy, a widespread understanding of the rights and obligations of government and the sources of prosperity can scarcely be overvalued.

Machiavelli

J. J. Rousseau

Francis Bacon

Sir Thomas More

Edmund Burke

Adam Smith

John Milton

Jas. Russell Lowell

John Stuart Mill

Daniel Defoe

“Bacon alone excepted,” says Buckle, “Burke was the greatest political thinker who has ever devoted himself to the practice of English politics.”

“The writer of a prose illumined as with fire; enthusiastic and yet supremely logical; fearless and yet absolutely obedient to law and order; eloquent and yet restrained; stirred by every popular movement and yet suggestive and philosophical. More completely than any man he showed, in style no less perfectly than in spirit and in sympathy, all that was most typical of the best genius of his age—its restraint, its philosophy, its obedience to order and to law and its gift to literary instinct—as removed from the exaggeration and pedantry of what had gone before, as from the vulgar platitude and superficial complacency of what was to follow.”

—HENRY CRAIK, Introduction, “English Prose.”

## The Bible of Political Economy

Adam Smith’s “Wealth of Nations” is the one work on political and social economy that every man owes it to himself to read. In this day of agitation over trusts, the influence of government, the value of money, the prices of necessities, the ownership of land, the man who has not read the “Wealth of Nations” is hardly qualified to speak or even think wisely on these vital subjects.

# Science

**I**N the realm of science the mind of man is busily engaged, as never before, discovering or applying new laws that are destined eventually to modify the life of every human being.

The age of Pericles was the time when the fine arts were developed in their highest perfection. The Middle Ages may be called preeminently the age of faith; the Twentieth Century will probably be known as the age of science.

The work of Helmholtz, Faraday, and Lord Kelvin in physics; of Darwin and Huxley in biology; of Jenner, Holmes, and Lister in medicine, has put us in possession of immense new dominions of mind.

In The Harvard Classics :

Francis Bacon

Sir Isaac Newton

Charles Darwin

Hippocrates

Lord Kelvin

Helmholtz

Sir Joseph Lister

T. H. Huxley

Sir A. Geikie

Michael Faraday

Edward Jenner

William Harvey

Ambroise Paré

Voltaire

O. W. Holmes

Simon Newcomb

Copernicus

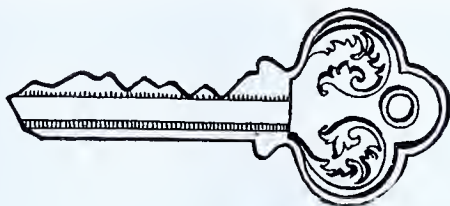
The world of science is well represented in the Five-Foot Shelf by master works upon

“Books are never asleep. If investigating you interrogate them, they conceal nothing; if you mistake them they never grumble; if you are ignorant they cannot laugh at you.”

—*Lincoln*

“Books will speak plain when counsellors flatter. Therefore it is good to be conversant in them, especially the books of such as themselves have been actors on the stage.”

—*Bacon*



*The best of locks is useless without a key.*

**Y**OU might have every one of the 418 books contained in Dr. Eliot's Five-Foot Shelf, but they would be only ten per cent efficient without their key—Volume 50—the one book that gives the set its practical value to the business or professional man—that gives him instant access to any author, any period, any thought or subject even remotely touched upon.

A bookseller offered a short time ago to duplicate The Harvard Classics for a friend of his, but he found it involved the purchase of over 300 volumes at a minimum cost of \$1.50 per volume, and he found that he would then have a conglomeration without arrangement or sequence, without introductions, explanatory notes or indexes—a useless mass of good literature, in many cases of garbled or abridged text.

In The Harvard Classics only the most authoritative texts are used. In some instances it was necessary to borrow the originals of priceless value from such libraries as the British Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, the Boston Public Library, and the late Mr. Morgan's collection.

In a word, Dr. Eliot's Five-Foot Shelf of Books is a necessary and valuable adjunct to the most extensive collection of books—it is the practical working section of any library.



L. Sartorius

the three great subjects, Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy. A careful study of the papers here collected will widen any reader's knowledge wonderfully in the fundamental points of which they treat.

"Lord Kelvin occupied for a long time a unique and cosmopolitan position as the universally venerated head of the physical science of the age. He will be known to future ages, possibly even more widely, as a main pioneer and creator in the all-embracing science of energy, the greatest physical generalization of the last century."

Faraday was one of the most brilliant experimentalists that science has ever known, and to him credit must be given for much that electricity has accomplished.

The achievements of Newcomb were in the borderland between theory and practice, where an enormous body of observed data has been utilized by an army of computers under his direction and guidance in determining the fundamental constants of astronomy.

*A letter we  
are proud of:*

"Los Angeles, Calif.,

Nov. 5, 1911.

P. F. COLLIER & SON,

416 West 13th Street,

New York City,

Dear Sirs:

In writing my appreciation of The Harvard Classics, I must explain to you first, this note comes from a laborer—a mere grocer's clerk, and so must be a very humble estimate.

In my vagrant reading I have seen so many references to these Classics that my imagination became fired as to this world I knew almost nothing of. I came to have a dread lest I should be forced through this brief life and never have the chance to explore these Classics. So I answered the very first advertisement of the Five-Foot Shelf, feeling my chance had come.

You may be assured I have not been disappointed. I can only hint to you the joy of reading through these books, the Odyssey, which I read first, and Montaigne and Emerson and all I have read so far. I did not put these in my library—they are my library.

I can sincerely thank all concerned in putting these books in my way.

Yours truly,

FRED WEST."

*"I did not put these  
in my library—they  
ARE my library."*

"Most everyone covets a library. To these The Harvard Classics come as a boon—the best and enough. Father, mother, and children enjoy these books. The Harvard Classics are the long-sort-for, found-at-last with me."—ARTHUR W. HICKMAN, Buffalo, N. Y.

Archibald Geikie was a distinguished geologist. His studies in inorganic geology show a keen appreciation of natural processes.

Ferdinand Helmholtz's researches in physics have given him authority to speak for all time.

Interesting as humanitarians as well as authors, the works of these scientists cover a highly important field of letters.

### In the Laboratories of Great Scientists

The men who have fought and conquered the forces of nature describe to you in simple, straightforward language the results of their years of endless study and experiment. The discoveries that have changed our whole conception of physical science and the art of healing are here described. Harvey tells you how he discovered the circulation of the blood. Jenner leads you through the long trials that led to the discovery of vaccination. You stand at Faraday's side watching his experiments with a candle. In your own study you have the peculiar joy of performing them after him.

A short time ago a Cleveland physician gave away his entire library of 15,000 volumes and bought The Harvard Classics to replace them. Not, as he said, that he did not already have in his library most of the works included in the set, but because the Five-Foot Shelf contained all the works really essential to the Twentieth Century cultivated man and the 76,000 word index enabled him to locate at a moment's notice any subject, any passage, any author he might require, whereas in his own library he might have to wade through scores of volumes to find the references he wanted.





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*The Harvard Classics provide the general reader with a great storehouse of standard works in all the main departments of intellectual activity, and, with the introductions, notes, guides to reading, and exhaustive indexes, may thus claim to constitute a reading course unparalleled in comprehensiveness and authority.*

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## Education

IN all profitable thinking about modern education one central fact is stated or assumed—the fact that education has become a public enterprise. To think of it as a matter mainly of private interest, to discuss it chiefly in terms of personal development, is to ignore the achieved conditions of civilized life and the clear trend of progress. The spread of public schools is but the obvious outward sign of a growing conviction concerning all educational endeavor. That conviction was long ago proclaimed and has now become a guide to action—the conviction that the community has a vital stake in the education of every child

## *Education*

Education is a common concern, not merely because there are many children to be educated, but because there can be no significant outcome in the education of any child which is not of importance to him not only, but also to others, immediately to many, more remotely to all.

It is interesting to see what works on education seem of most importance to one who is himself an acknowledged master of the subject. Particularly significant is the presence in *The Harvard Classics* of great writers who were deemed revolutionary in their own day—radicals like Milton, Lessing, Mill, Channing, Huxley, and Carlyle—while the more conservative authorities like Newman are not overlooked.

John Milton

Lessing

John Locke

Schiller

John Stuart Mill

Daniel Defoe

T. H. Huxley

Thomas Carlyle

Channing

Cardinal Newman

John Ruskin

Montaigne

**T**HE HARVARD CLASSICS include 418 complete selected works of 300 authors chosen by Dr. Eliot with the advice of over 50 members of the Harvard Faculty.

Dr. Eliot's ideas regarding certain systematic methods have been carried out to assist the reader in gaining "the essentials of a liberal education, even if he can devote but fifteen minutes a day to the Five-Foot Shelf of Books."

By means of an index volume, including 76,000 fact entries and cross-references, with the supplemental reading courses, the reader has the wise counsels of Dr. Eliot and his staff of assistants, who map out University Extension Courses in every field of the world's literature.

In addition, the numerous introductions, written at Dr. Eliot's request by William Allan Neilson, Ph. D., Professor of English at Harvard, present in concise form those facts about authors and their works which are absolutely necessary to the reader. The introductions and special notes alone, scattered through the work, occupy about 300 pages. There are also numerous footnotes for ready reference.

## Footnotes

Every page of the 21,000 pages has been carefully gone over, and explanations wherever necessary appear at the bottom of the page, thus:

4 "A printing-house is always called a chapel by the workmen, the origin of which appears to have been that printing was first carried on in England in an ancient chapel converted into a printing-house, and the title has been preserved by tradition. The *bien venu* among the printers answers to the terms entrance and footing among mechanics; thus a journeyman, on entering a printing-house, was accustomed to pay one or more gallons of beer for the good of the chapel: this custom was falling into disuse thirty years ago; it is very properly rejected entirely in the United States."—W. T. F.

## Introductions

Concise and instructive introductions precede the works of the various authors. This feature doubles the value of the books to any thoughtful reader.

### Fragment from Introductory Note

FRANCIS BACON, son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to Queen Elizabeth, was born in London on January 22, 1561. He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, at the age of twelve, and in 1576 he interrupted the law studies he had begun in that year to go to France in the train of the English Ambassador, Sir Amyas Paulet.

## Reading Courses

The seeker of knowledge has the wise counsels of Dr. Eliot and his assistants, who have laid out complete reading courses on a wide range of subjects. The student is not only referred to the books to be read in their proper sequence, but in every case the particular pages of each work are mentioned.

### An Outline of One of the Reading Courses

#### *The History of Civilization*

Race and Language	Germanic Peoples in Primitive Times
Ancient Egypt	Ireland in Primitive Times
The East in Patriarchal Times	The Early Christian Church
Ancient Greece: (legendary)	The Mohammedan East
Ancient Greece: (historic)	The Middle Ages
Ancient Rome: (republican)	The Renaissance
Ancient Rome: (imperial)	Modern Europe
America	

## Drama

*"If you have poison  
for me —*

I will drink it." (King Lear.)  
Shaken and crumpled by the treason of his older daughters; who had accepted all his property and then heartlessly turned him out, he suspected even the faithful Cordelia of evil designs. Perhaps you have read the great tragedy entire; it is one of the immortal plays included in The Harvard Classics.



Rare is the human being, immature or mature, who has never felt an impulse to pretend he is some one or something else. The human being who has never felt pleasure in seeing such a pretending is rarer still. Back through the ages of barbarism and civilization, in all tongues, we find this instinctive pleasure in the imitative action that is the very essence of all drama. The instinct to impersonate produces the actor; the desire to provide pleasure by impersonations produces the playwright; the desire to provide this pleasure with adequate characterization and dialogue memorable in itself produces dramatic literature. Though dramatic literature has been sporadic, dramatic entertainment by imitative action has

## *Drama*

been going steadily on since we first hear of it in connection with the Bacchic festivals of early Greece; and the dramatic instinct has been uninterruptedly alive since man's creation.

### **The Drama**

Christopher Marlowe	Robert Browning	Corneille
William Shakespeare	Æschylus	Racine
Ben Jonson	Sophocles	Molière
Thomas Dekker	Euripides	Calderon
Beaumont and Fletcher	Aristophanes	Sheridan
John Webster	Lessing	Oliver Goldsmith
Philip Massinger	Schiller	Lord Byron
John Dryden	Goethe	Percy Bysshe Shelley

The drama is literature expressing itself in action; hence dramatic compositions surpass all others in vigor and intensity.

The fact that the Greek dramas teach moral lessons accounts for their popularity then and now just as the drama of to-day must deal with the more serious side of human nature if it is to receive more than passing notice.

### **From Æschylus to Browning**

In The Harvard Classics are 32 great dramas—an exposition of the dramatic art from the days of Æschylus

**I** HAVE examined the selection of "Harvard Classics," chosen from the greatest literature of the world by President Eliot. *I believe that every book contained in the series is of high permanent value in the history of the world, as representing the noblest thoughts which have been cast into form.*

DAVID STARR JORDAN,  
*President of Stanford University.*

## *Drama*

and Sophocles to the comparatively modern Browning. While the theatre, considered from the point of view of a spectacular entertainment, is continually undergoing changes: every man has the privilege of reading and enjoying the drama in its very highest development without attending a play. As a matter of fact, one cannot fully appreciate the legitimate stage of to-day without an acquaintance with the classics drama.

### **See the World's Greatest Plays**

If you are fond of the play, there are a hundred evenings of delight for you in the Five-Foot Shelf. In your own library you have performed before you the world's greatest dramas. You see the Greek theatre and in it the nine great dramas of the ancient masters. You have only to reach out your hand to bring the best that France has produced—the dramas that have stirred the enthusiasm of all Germany—or to live for an idle hour in Spain. The master minds who have made English drama brilliant are at your command.

### **Giants of Literature**

The Greek tragedies—examples of the classical drama at its highest stage of perfection—are here in the works of the mighty triad, Æschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, who marvelously excelled in the representation of human passion.

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*“These books are the greatest investment I know, and what an insignificant investment for such Treasures of enjoyment and mental growth!”*



### Live with the world's Greatest Men

The world's greatest men stand ready to take you into their confidence. You can live with them day by day, through their adventures and achievements. You can watch Cellini—wonderful combination of artist and knave—in his dealings with princes and pontiffs, his love affairs, and his duels. You can read the letters of Pliny the Younger, in which he asks whether he shall destroy the "sect called Christians," and those describing the destruction of Pompeii. You can stand with Cicero in the Roman Senate while he denounces Catiline. You can see Franklin hanging out the lantern in front of his house, the first street light in America. You can live with the greatest men in the intimate personal concerns of their daily existence. There is in all literature no greater pleasure than this.



### Cicero Denouncing Catiline—Cicero's Letters

The letters of Cicero and Pliny are intimate pictures of Roman society written by prominent statesmen to their friends. We derive from Pliny not a few of our distinctest impressions of the public and private life of the upper class in the first century.



**This is Marie Antoinette Riding to Her Death**

Hers is History's most tragic story. Have you ever read Burke's "Reflections on the Revolution in France"? It is one of the few really great essays—one of the works of the forty-five great essayists worthy to be included in the Five-Foot Shelf of Books.

## Essays

NO one can turn over the pages of The Harvard Classics without realizing how much of the most delightful writing of the last three hundred years has taken the form of the essay. No literary form is more flexible than this, and no form except lyric poetry has touched upon a wider variety of topics.

The essayists are those delightful informal philosophers who discourse genially upon life, who exhort without preaching, instruct without pedantry, and moralize without offense. They are among the most brilliant and winning of all the craft. They may have the shrewd wisdom of Bacon and Montaigne, the smiling good humor of Lamb and Stevenson, the high seriousness of Milton and Newman, the caustic penetration of Voltaire, the insight of Arnold and Sainte-Beuve, the eloquence of Ruskin and Macaulay, the erudition of Renan, the fierce conviction of Carlyle, or the serene confidence of Emerson.

Montaigne	John Dryden	Thos. De Quincey
Francis Bacon	Abraham Cowley	T. B. Macaulay
R. W. Emerson	Sir Philip Sidney	W. M. Thackeray
Thomas Carlyle	Ben Jonson	Cardinal Newman
Edmund Burke	Joseph Addison	Matthew Arnold
Cicero	Sir R. Steele	Edgar Allan Poe
John Milton	Jonathan Swift	Jas. R. Lowell
Voltaire	Daniel Defoe	H. D. Thoreau
Sainte-Beuve	David Hume	T. H. Huxley
Ernest Renan	Sydney Smith	Walter Bagehot
Lessing	S. T. Coleridge	E. A. Freeman
Schiller	William Hazlitt	R. L. Stevenson
Mazzini	Leigh Hunt	John Ruskin
H. A. Taine	Charles Lamb	W. E. Channing
Samuel Johnson	Percy B. Shelley	John Stuart Mill

## Essays

### Forty-five Great Essayists

Dr. Eliot has selected for the Five-Foot Shelf of Books the works of forty-five great essayists. Every man and woman, whether engaged in business, a profession, or in private life, realizes the importance of being able to express ideas in words. The authors of these essays are recognized as the masters of expression. There is no one feature of The Harvard Classics from which the reader will derive as much pleasure and benefit as from the volumes of essays.

### The Noblest Minds

The essay is the realm wherein he who writes is king. It is the resort alike of philosopher and free-lance, of hostile critic and candid friend. It is the abode of freedom, and its horizon is wide as the human intellect.

The noblest minds and the brightest intellects have fashioned and employed this literary form, and from this array of genius Dr. Eliot has selected the very flower of the essays, and given us the best from every land.

*"God is great, God is great—  
There is no other God but God"*

It is the Muezzin—the call of the Mohammedan to prayer. At its sound, two hundred million men and women bow themselves toward Mecca.

How much do you really know about any religion but your own?

Do you know what few great religious masterpieces are really worth reading?



# Philosophy and Religion

**N**O class of writers has done greater service to the world than that to which Plato and Descartes and Kant belong. They were, to quote what Matthew Arnold said of Emerson, "friends of those who would live in the Spirit."

Plato	Thomas Carlyle	Martin Luther
Cicero	David Hume	Thomas à Kempis
Marcus Aurelius	Edmund Burke	Thomas Hobbes
Epictetus	George Berkeley	John Calvin
Descartes	Immanuel Kant	John Bunyan
Blaise Pascal	Lessing	William Penn
Voltaire	John Locke	Sir Thomas Browne
J. J. Rousseau	Schiller	Saint Augustine
Francis Bacon	Emerson	

## Documents from the Sacred Books of

Judaism	Christianity	Buddhism
Brahmanism	Confucianism	Mohammedanism
	Famous Hymns	

## Philosophy

Philosophy has been defined as a devotion to the pursuit of the truth. The Stoics considered it to be the endeavor to obtain excellence in knowledge. In Plato, philosophy came to mean knowledge of eternal reality. The Epicureans regarded the philosopher as a man who pursued happiness in the manner suggested by reason.



## *Philosophy and Religion*

Three main epochs commonly divide the history of European philosophy. The first is the Ancient or Greek. This begins from the earliest formulations of philosophic conceptions among the Ionian philosophers and continues to the Christian Era. The second, that of Medieval philosophy or scholasticism. It owed its rise to the theoretical speculations of the early Church fathers, usually educated in Greek thought. This philosophy was characteristic of Catholic Christianity. The third period is known as that of modern philosophy. It commonly dates from the Renaissance and more particularly from the advocacy of empirical methods of investigation by Bacon and of appeal to immediate reason or intuition by Descartes.

### **Religion**

The religious field in literature stands alone, both for purity of style and loftiness of purpose. Simplicity is the keynote. It gives emphasis to the views expressed. The

Harvard Classics do not alone include many treasures of religious literature, but present parts of the sacred works of the principal religions, such as the Bible, the Talmud, and the Koran.

"I am glad to say that the volumes of The Harvard Classics confirm all my best anticipations. I congratulate you on the scheme which makes it possible to place in the private libraries of the land this vast world of literature."

BISHOP JOHN H. VINCENT  
of the  
*Chautauqua Assembly*

### **Books that Never Die**

The one bond of unity in all the sacred books is the desire for the uplift of those believing in them. Diversity may exist in the method of achievement, but the spirit of helpfulness is there.



## Prose Fiction

**M**ALORY'S "Morte d'Arthur" may be called the Epic of Chivalry, and "Paradise Lost" the Epic of Puritanism. "Don Quixote" is a portrait of the whole Spanish nation, and Manzoni accomplished in "I Promessi Sposi" a like task for Italy. All of Norse heroism is gathered in the "Volsunga Saga," and the "Arabian Nights" unlocked for us the doors of Oriental literature.

### Prose Fiction

Cervantes

A. Manzoni

H. C. Andersen

Jacob Grimm

Wilhelm Grimm

John Bunyan

Æsop

Malory

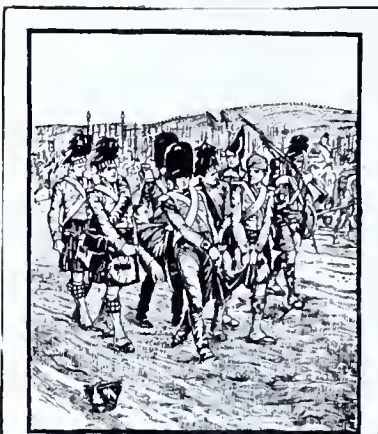
Volsunga Saga      Arabian Nights

The masterpieces collected in the Five-Foot Shelf are representative of what is best and most enduring in the world's classic fiction. All civilizations and literatures have been laid under contribution out of the treasures of east and west, of north and

## *A Home Without Books!*

"We form judgments of men from little things about their houses, of which the owner perhaps never thinks. If on visiting the dwelling of a man of slender means we find that he contents himself with cheap carpets and very plain furniture in order that he may purchase books, he rises at once in our esteem. Books are the windows through which the soul looks out. A home without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books. It is a wrong to his family. He cheats them!"

—Henry Ward Beecher.



*"Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note,  
As his corse to the rampart we hurried.  
Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot  
O'er the grave where our hero we buried."*

south. The choicest gems have been selected, each secure in universal interest and appeal.

The Harvard Classics include a varied collection of folklore and fair tales. This particular branch of literature grows in importance every year. There are several thousand volumes on this subject in Harvard University Library. The reader has the opportunity to contrast the flowery, extravagant language of the Orient as illustrated in

the tales of the Arabian Nights (Stanley Lane-Poole translation); of which there is an entire volume, with the simple, yet wonderfully picturesque words of Hans Christian Andersen, Æsop, and the brothers Grimm.

### **Teachings of Universal Experience**

The fables attributed to the mythical Æsop are distinctly Eastern in their origin, and are the common heritage of the human race.

*"Their teachings are the teachings of universal experience, and therefore appeal irresistibly to the consciousness of everyone."*

—PROF. H. THURSTON PECK.

What the unknown compilers of the "Arabian Nights" did for Eastern lore the gifted Grimms accomplished for Teutonic letters. The Grimms collected the household tales of Germany and enshrined them in their "Märchen."

*"In a single generation they became one of the popular books of the world, translated into every civilized tongue."*

—B. W. WELLS, in Grimm's "Fairy Tales."

# Voyages and Travel

For to admire and for to see.  
For to behold this world so wide.



A Hindu Temple

**I**T is probable that from the very earliest times the spirit of these familiar lines has been a potent factor in human history. One might be led, because of the marked development of curiosity in monkeys and apes, to suppose that, even before the complete development of the



PROCESSION OF THE SACRED BULL—ANCIENT EGYPT  
From the painting by F. A. Bridgman in the Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, D. C.  
*Illustrating the Voyages and Travel volume of The Harvard Classics*



## *Voyages and Travel*

human type had been attained, our precursors were tempted to explore beyond their customary haunts. Be that as it may, it seems certain that the first spread of the human race over the face of the globe must have been preceded by more or less conscious exploration and travel. As population grew and began to press upon the food supply and available hunting grounds, and the need for expansion and emigration was recognized, the relative availability and attractiveness of the country in different directions must have been investigated, and movement have taken place toward the most favorable. This would, of course, not hold true where movement was due to war or the pressure of conquest, but much of this earliest movement of peoples must have been largely voluntary. Travel has thus in these primitive scouts and explorers its earliest exponents, and the history of travel is seen to be as old as the race.

### **Freedom and Adventure**

A love of freedom and a spirit of adventure have been one of the mainsprings of Anglo-Saxon civilization. Herodotus was the first traveler who carried a notebook, and the Greeks had a colonizing and inquiring strain much like our own. The great voyagers of the globe were those intrepid sailors, Columbus and Cabot, Raleigh and Drake and Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who put a cable round the earth and began to squeeze it to the comfortable dimensions of a habitable world.

Herodotus  
Tacitus  
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